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2 December 1952

Mr. W. Park Armstrong, Jr.  
Special Assistant, Intelligence  
Department of State  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

This letter is in response to yours of October 31 in which the Department of State requests [REDACTED] for the External Research Staff, for the last four years jointly sponsored and supported by our Agencies.

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It is my belief that your proposal will materially strengthen the coordination of the external research programs on foreign areas for the IAC agencies and, to a certain extent, for the operational units of the Department of Defense.

Through the development of Department of State facilities as proposed and through the close cooperation between the External Research Staff and the CIA Office of Intelligence Coordination, I believe we can make substantial progress in the next year and a half in minimizing duplication in External Research contacts among the agencies, ensuring community benefit of finished research and facilitating the more rational letting of research contracts.

As a measure of my desire that we take positive steps on this problem I am authorizing the responsible officials in this Agency to arrange [REDACTED] to initiate this program immediately.

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I believe the cooperation of the Department of Defense is extremely important in this whole matter, hence I have written the Deputy Secretary of Defense. A copy of the memorandum is attached.

Sincerely,

Walter B. Smith  
Director